

# Seney Refuge News

## SENEY NWR VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

1674 REFUGE ENTRANCE RD., SENEY, MI 49883

906-586-9851, EXT. 16

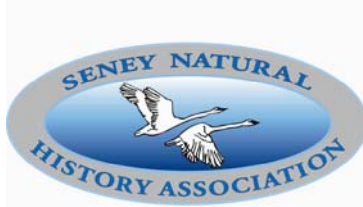
CONTACT PERSON: JEN McDONOUGH

FEBRUARY 2007

<http://midwest.fws.gov/seney>

### Tight Budgets but Great “Friends”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Midwest Regional Office has developed a plan to reduce staffing at the region's National Wildlife Refuges by 71 positions, about 20% of its workforce, culminating over the next three years. The personnel reductions are in part, the result of nationwide budget shortfalls in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Refuge System in Michigan employs 20 people managing seven refuges and one wetland management district. These employees manage approximately 113,000 acres of land and host about 143,000 visitors annually. To help meet the target reduction Michigan will lose four positions. Each refuge in the Midwest has been, or is going to feel the effects of these personnel reductions. At Seney you may have noticed events such as “Snow Fest” being cancelled, less environmental education programs and no teacher workshops. We have also been working through some maintenance challenges. Despite these setbacks, refuge staff continue to take pride in the work they do and will step up to the challenges. We are also extremely fortunate to have a dedicated “friends group” the Seney Natural History Association” (SNHA) who provide tremendous support to the refuge. This non-profit group has been supporting the refuge for nearly 20 years and once again has stepped up to give more during this time of need. Among other things, the SNHA has annually funded six internship positions, all of the refuge's special events, the spotting scopes on the observation decks, and the binoculars loaned to the public. SNHA has also assisted with the funding for many of our exhibits and interpretive signs. This year the SNHA will continue this support plus create a new Level II Apprenticeship to help offset the lack of staff within Visitor Services. They will also provide funds to help support the internship program (ie uniforms, field gear etc), set aside a sum of money to be funded to various refuge projects based on a grant type program, and will be funding new projector equipment for the orientation slide show. All in all the SNHA will spend \$41,195 supporting the refuge in 2007. With such great “friends” you will be less likely to notice the tight budgets.



### Winter Film Festival

If you are in the area join us for movie nights. All films will be shown in the Visitor Center Auditorium at Seney National Wildlife Refuge. **Films will begin promptly at 7:00 pm and end around 8:00 pm.** All shows are open to the public and are free of charge. Hot chocolate and cookies provided by SNHA.

## Volunteer!

*Discover a rewarding experience*

### **Volunteer Orientation**

Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 9:30am – 2:00pm

*Volunteer Orientation includes introductions to the Refuge and its staff, Refuge updates, resource talks, information about the RSVP program, pertinent paperwork, scheduling work assignments and lunch. There will be an optional backcountry tour available on Thursday.*

*If interested...Please RSVP to Jen at 906.586.9851 ext. 16 or [jennifer\\_mcdonough@fws.gov](mailto:jennifer_mcdonough@fws.gov)*

If you are interested in volunteering but cannot attend the orientation you should still contact Jen at the same number to discuss options.

**Tuesday Feb 20<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Chased By The Light: A Photographic Journey with Jim Brandenburg***

An inspiring story of how one of the world's greatest nature photographers uniquely immersed himself in his craft. For 90 days Brandenburg took only a single picture each day. The stunning images generated unprecedented reader interest as a *National Geographic* magazine cover story. The documentary is inspiring, the videography is stunning, the music is stirring.

**Tuesday Feb 27<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Pale Male***

In 1991 a pale male red-tailed hawk arrived in Central Park and became an instant celebrity who made New Yorker's hearts and imaginations soar. Join the close-knit community of bird-watchers who faithfully gather daily to follow the progress of this exquisite bird.

**Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Hope Takes Wing***

This production chronicles the history of the whooping crane, while highlighting the reintroduction method currently being used to safeguard the species from extinction. See how this dedicated team uses ultralight aircraft, ingenuity, and a bit of extreme science to restore a migratory population of whooping cranes to the eastern half of North America. Some techniques were perfected at Seney by former biologist Dr. Richard Urbanek.

**Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Bilby Brothers – The Men who Killed the Easter Bunny***

Don't let the provocative title scare you. This is simply a story about two individuals who have spent practically every waking moment of the past decade working to save a little oddball species, called the Bilby, from extinction. Their work is a phenomenal example of how one person CAN make a difference.

### A Refuge Loss

Sadly we mourn the loss of a valuable volunteer. Weldon Slater died unexpectedly this fall. He was a weekly volunteer, a member of the SNHA board, and an amazing source of energy and ideas. His family will hold an informal open house in his



memory at the Refuge Visitor Center on Sunday May 27 at 7 pm. All are welcome to attend.

a project worth taking on. In 2007, they are planning to organize a spring cookout, coordinate

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### Are We Looking For You?

The Seney Natural History Association is willing to offer a small stipend to someone qualified to fill a **“Community Relations Volunteer”** position. If you think you might be interested, please submit a letter outlining your experience and qualifications to Jen McDonough (contact info at top of this newsletter).

**Purpose:**

To raise public awareness of Seney National Wildlife Refuge (including its projects, programs, events, research,

**Qualifications:**

- ❖Public relations or community relations experience
- ❖Media experience: newspaper, radio, TV
- ❖Moderate Computer skills
- ❖Good verbal and writing skills
- ❖Organized and efficient
- ❖Able to work independently & directly with refuge staff

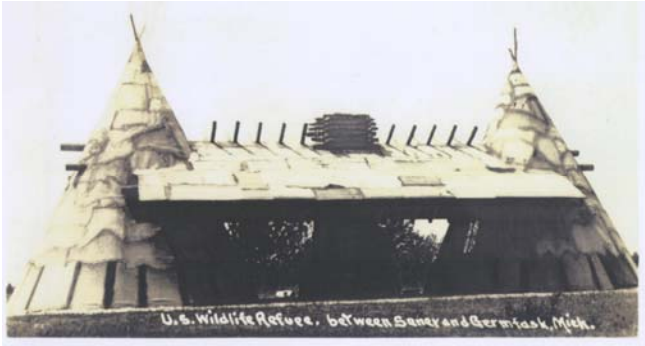
**Stipend:**

\$1,700.00 annually

**Position Description:**

- ❖Accountable to SNHA Board
- ❖Coordinates all activities with Seasonal Park Ranger and/or Refuge Managers
- ❖Assists Seasonal Park Ranger with following responsibilities:
  - Generate ideas and coordinate logistics for building community relations (community exhibits, event booths, news articles, open houses, radio spots, etc.)
  - Establish working relationship with area media
  - Prepare news releases, posters, ads etc. for area media
  - Arrange for distribution of brochures and pamphlets to MDOT, rest stops, chambers of commerce, and area businesses.
  - Preparation and distribution of Refuge Newsletter
  - Coordination/promotion of education trunks and school program opportunities
  - Approximately 7-10 hours per week year round.

### Remember Picnicking at the Wigwams?



Last summer the SNHA board began talking with refuge staff about rehabbing the Wigwams on M-77 just north of the refuge entrance. Years ago they were used as a rest stop and picnic area for travelers and the local community. The SNHA board thought it would be nice if they could be used again and decided rehabilitating the Wigwams was

fundraisers, and participate in “work days”. They will be looking for volunteers to paint, do carpentry, clear brush, etc. If you would like to pitch in and help make this project a reality call Joe Kolder at 906.586.9696. Donations of cedar shakes and paint would be most appreciated so if you know of possible sources please put the word out. Donations are tax deductible as SNHA is a non-profit organization.

#### 2007 Calendar of Events

**Visitor Center Opens**  
May 15

**Wildlife Wednesdays**  
(evening auto tours)  
June, July & August

**Children’s Fishing Day**  
June 9

**Scout Day**  
September 29

**Visitor Center Closes**  
October 15

